



ESTUARY

COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC.

220 Main Street

Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Tel: 860 388-1611

Fax: 860 388-6770



February 21, 2013

Energy & Technology Committee
State of Connecticut
State Senator Bob Duff & Representative Lonnie Reed

Re: HB 6402

Members of the Energy & Technology Committee:

I am the Executive Director for the Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI), a nine-town regional senior center serving the communities of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook. The mission of ECSI is to maximize independence, dignity and quality of life for Connecticut seniors. Our facility is centrally located in Old Saybrook and offers programs to keep seniors active, healthy, and mentally astute.

ECSI provides many opportunities for seniors to become involved and informed on many topics including those offered on health and human services. We realize often that the delivery of those very service messages for seniors are often delivered with online data. The investment in a Connecticut with a state of the art broadband technology platform will bring an exciting array of products and services that will allow seniors to improve their health and every day lives. With particular emphasis on improvements in wireless or broadband, seniors can now access solutions that enable them to be more self sufficient. Having better access to healthcare and the opportunity to provide families with a peace of mind that the safety of their loved ones can be monitored from a distance is a wonderful goal to attain.

One only has to visit our center to realize that the senior of today bears no resemblance to those of past decades. Seniors have become more independent and able to live much longer lives with the benefit of advanced technologies. One might wonder why I would have such a strong interest in HB 6402? I realize the benefit that investments made in the Connecticut telecommunication infrastructure will make on the delivery of products and services to consumers and particularly those over 50 years of age, ECSI's target population. I think it has been a long time since we have reviewed the legacy regulations that impact the telecommunication market place and I realize how many other States have benefited from advanced telecommunications by changing those very regulations that are currently hindering capital investment in the State of Connecticut.



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Please take a careful look at this Bill since advancements in broadband technologies play a key role in advancing Telehealth and platforms like mHealth which helps seniors remotely monitor their health while reducing medical costs. The internet has fundamentally changed society and the way we live and work. Innovation drives job growth and allows seniors to stay connected with friends and provide up to the minute news details almost everywhere we go.

Please support the passage of HB 6402, "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws".

Sincerely,

Paula C. Ferrara
Executive Director